

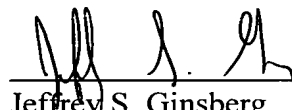
The Examiner has indicated that "[c]laim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicants have added new claims 22 and 23. Claim 23 sets forth the limitations of now cancelled claim 21, including the limitations of base and intervening claims 11 and 20. Claim 23 is now dependent from new claim 22. Claim 22 sets forth the limitations of now cancelled claim 21, including the limitations of base and intervening claims 11 and 20, except that claim 22 is directed to "a connector adapted to connect a storage container ... to a medical apparatus." Support for claim 22 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 5, lines 15-16. Thus, it is believed that claims 22 and 23 are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the same.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt notification thereof is requested. If for any reason the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 9, 2002

By:


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 11, 20 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Twice Amended) The connector as recited in claim [11] 22 wherein the bar code extends circumferentially around the identifier.

New claims 22 and 23 have been added.